

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 52

January 2005

No. 1



Calendar

Sat., Jan. 22	Citizens Assoc. Pot Luck Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (see article, p 2)	Fri., Feb. 11	Film Society, <i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> , Town Hall; food at 7:15 pm, film at 8 pm (see article, p 3)
Thurs., Jan. 27	Citizens Assoc./Kensington Coalition meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Feb. 14	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Jan. 29	Coffee House, Town Hall, 7 pm	Tues., Feb. 15	<i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Wed., Feb. 2	Monthly yard waste collection	Wed, Feb. 16	Meeting to organize nonfiction book club, Town Hall, 8 pm (see Sweet and Sour, p 5)
Thurs., Feb. 3	Jam Session, Town Hall, 7 pm	Thurs., Feb. 17	Jam Session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Sat., Feb. 5	Budget workshop session, Town Hall, 8:30 am	Fri., Feb. 25	Three-day painting workshop begins (see article, p 2)
Tues., Feb. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm		

Town Council Meeting

Because of the illness of intrepid reporter Margaret Soltan, fill-in reporter Mary Moyer attended the Town Council meeting of January 10. The meeting did not begin until 8:30 pm, since it followed the buffet dinner for the Council and State Senator Jennie Forehand. The meeting was over by 9:30, which may be a new record.

Chris Keller opened with a statement about the probability of the property tax rates rising in the future and assessments going up. If owners have an annual income below a certain level, there might be some relief, or at least there was

in the past, with a circuit breaker. Call the county tax office to see if there can be tax breaks in your future.

Did you know that ASHA is selling its property on the corner of Strathmore and Rockville Pike, and developers are set to plan town houses there? If not, you're not the only one. Apparently this comes as a surprise to the folks at Strathmore Hall, too. As we go to press, the sale is not listed on the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's Real Property Data Search Website. An oversight? Or is it not final?

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)

The Mayor commended Butch Frost for his dedication to the town over and above his normal duties. He came in on his days off to do the brick laying in front of the PO and other odd jobs around town, like painting the parking space lines in front of the train stop.

The street lights should be in working order by the end of February, and the original project finished. Then additional lights around Penn Place can be planned, and the finances found from somewhere. Because of the 76 lights that are going to be added to Strathmore, the town's budget line for lighting will probably end up doubled next year. On July 1 your own electric bill should be going up also. The Maryland Municipal League is going to be lobbying legislators to allow municipalities to negotiate rates for electricity.

Tony Altar suggested the implementation of a Garrett Park email system to communicate agenda items for the upcoming council meetings to the citizenry. After discussion about whether residents would want to get email from the town, and the fact that Martin Trocki's email address list includes people who don't live in town, it was decided to try such a communication for the March meeting with a new address list made up with the help of Ted Pratt.

The final item on the agenda was "Penn Place Status," which sort of got lost in the rush to adjourn. When asked by this reporter what the status was, the reply was "It's still there!" As we go to press, this statement is still true.

Mary Moyer

GIVES Soup Supper

Mark your calendars! Time for another GIVES Soup Supper. It will take place on Sunday, March 6, from 5 to 7 pm at Town Hall. Children are most welcome. There is no charge, but voluntary contributions will be much appreciated. The meal will be simple but delicious, a variety of home-made soups, breads, and beverages. This is a great opportunity for residents, new and old, to meet and mix for a good cause.

All money collected by volunteers and that has come in from envelopes (as well as donations from the supper) will go to the American Friends Service Committee to promote hunger and relief self-help projects in other countries and to Zachaeus Community Kitchen in Washington, D.C. Between January and December 2004, approximately \$4,422 was collected, thanks to the generosity of our residents and others.

We do need helpers for the supper: soup makers, bread makers (you can also buy bread from many good bakeries), people to set up, clean up, etc. Please call Glenda Ingham or Karen Anderson. Watch for flyers in the Post Office and more information in the next *Bugle*.

Town Dinner Reminder

In the hope that this issue makes it into the mailboxes on time, we offer a friendly reminder that the Town Dinner is Saturday, January 22, in the Town Hall. Attendees can start arriving at 6, and dinner will be served at 6:30 or as soon as everyone arrives. *Bring your own eating utensils.* Cost of the dinner is \$5 per person, payable at the door. You may also pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time (\$5 per person, or \$10 per household). Decorating will commence at 10 am on January 22. This year's theme is "Winter Wonderland" (since we don't seem to be having one). Envelopes are being included in this issue so that you can mail in your dues at any time during the month.

Mary Moyer

Notes from the Post Office

Many thanks for all the holiday remembrances. Donna, Maria, and I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Just a reminder about access to the Post Office: the main door is open from 6:30 am to 10 pm, when the combination lock goes on. To open the door when it is locked, press 2089# (no 6!), and you can enter and empty your box 24 hours a day.

The Postal Service has been implementing a new computer system for counter service, but we were delayed in getting the system because of our renovation. On January 26, we will be changing to the new system. Donna is already trained on it, which should help greatly, but please bear with us during this time of change.

Painting Workshop

A workshop led by Stuart Cubley will be held at the Town Hall the weekend of January 25. Cubley, a therapist, creative coach, and author from San Francisco, will lead a "painting experience from intuition," starting on Friday at 7 pm. There is a fee involved. For information, you can call Karen McLaughlin Galant. To register, call 888-639-8569.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by email. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

The very best wishes for the New Year from all of us who work for you as town employees—around and about the town, here in the office, wherever you find us, our goal is to do as much as possible to make Garrett Park the best home town it can be. In these winter months, it is often hard for some of the town’s residents to get out. Please try to be particularly alert for a friend or neighbor who might need a little extra support this time of year. If there is any way you feel that we here at the office might be able to help out, please call or drop by.

Leaf collection has finished for the year. Chances are you may have a few leaves left over. You can either pile them up in a corner for composting, or bag them for the yard waste pickup the first Wednesday in February (Feb. 2). Next year we’ll collect the Christmas trees after Twelfth Night. If you missed the scheduled pickup, just put your tree out, and we will take it away.

So far we have avoided snow. This is very good for our budget, but unlikely to last. So please remember that it is especially important to try to park off the streets when snow is expected so that we can clear the streets curb to curb whenever possible. This will allow for more space to park after the streets are plowed. Our contractor, David Gregg, did an excellent job last year, and with the new truck we have substantially increased capability, which will permit us to provide better service.

I’d like to thank the many residents who generously gave tips to the Waste Management employees who take away our trash, recyclables, and yard waste. A fine year-end gift was made to each of the five men, and letters of acknowledgment will be sent out to all who gave before the end of January.

At its regular meeting on January 10 the Council introduced an ordinance to revise the town’s current budget (FY 2005) in response to changed income and expense projections. The new ordinance will be adopted at the February meeting and keep town services intact. If you have questions or would like more information, please call the office (301-933-7488).

As always, you are welcome to stop by the office any time.

Ted Pratt
Garrett-park@comcast.net



Valentine Movie & Guest Chefs

The Garrett Park Film Society invites you to a special Valentine’s Day treat on Friday night, February 11. Enjoy an evening of sensuality, offered from Mexico via a great movie, *Like Water for Chocolate*, and a fantastic Mexican meal prepared by our own Victor Vergara and his wife Gabriela de la Garza.

If that sounds enticing to you, be sure to arrive in good time. At this year’s first film, *The Lavender Hill Mob*, we had a full house, which was a pleasant surprise. Unfortunately, the large turnout meant that we ran out of our main course offerings (Cornish pasties and Stilton/walnut salad) before 7:30. After that, people had to make do with snacks, drinks, and dessert.

For February 11, Victor and Gabriela will be preparing chicaquiles verdes (cooked tortillas with a green sauce); posole (a soup of hominy, oregano, lettuce, and more); chiles en nogada (nutmeg chili with pomegranate); turkey mole (a dark brown sauce made from dry chiles, nuts, spices, vegetables, chocolate, and seasonings); and pastel chabela (apricot cake). Drinks will include Mexican beer, tequila, a traditional nonalcoholic “fleur de Jamaica,” and chocolate mexicano. This wonderful meal will be offered at a reasonable cost, as all of our dinners are.

Dinner will be a feast, and *Like Water for Chocolate* will be a “feast for the soul.” Roger Ebert described this 1993 film, which is set in a Mexican border town around 1910, as an “intense world of passion and romance, with a little comedy and a lot of quail, garlic, honey, chilies, mole, cilantro, rose petals, and corn meal.”

Like Water for Chocolate will be shown at the Garrett Park Town Hall, Friday night, February 11. Dinner will be offered beginning at 7:15 pm. The film will follow at 8 pm. There is no charge for members of the Film Society for the movie. Nonmembers may pay \$5 per person/\$10 per family at the door. The dinner price will be set later, but most meals run around \$5 to \$8 for entrée and salad, \$2 to \$3 for dessert. Other movie-type treats will also be offered.

Jack Mandel



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Some GPES students will be guests of the Washington Wizards at a game in January or February. They submitted a video they made under the sponsorship of Suzanne Hickey, entitled “Settle the Score with Peace,” to the “Our House, Our Rules” contest held by the Washington Wizards and Mystics.

Children are getting ready for the 2005 International Night on February 25. The school has students representing many countries throughout the world, and this event displays their arts, food, crafts, and music. Town residents are invited to attend. As it is a very popular event, it is likely to be crowded.

The collection for UNICEF at Halloween has been tallied, and the students collected \$625 this year. The Student Council is currently sponsoring a drive to collect funds for UNICEF for the disaster in Southeast Asia.

Two days of club activities have begun. On Tuesdays, a Rising Math Stars Club has started to “provide weekly practice that will improve students’ confidence and proficiency with number sense, basic operations, mental math and problem solving.” This program is being made possible with a grant from the MCPS Educational Foundation. On Wednesdays, extracurricular activity clubs are going full force.

From the report on the meeting of the Walter Johnson Cluster, GPES is scheduled to have completed the six-room addition in 2006/07, and in 2011 the building is scheduled to be demolished, followed by construction of the modernized GPES. The new six room-addition will remain to become part of the new facility.

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before September 30, 2005, it is time to think about registering him or her for kindergarten starting next fall. Please call the school (301-929-2170) to get on the mailing list. You will be sent the registration materials in the spring, and invited to attend the kindergarten orientation in March or April.

Mary Moyer

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Erik Gordon

Erik Gordon, 32, son of Ann Gordon, died suddenly on December 19, 2004. He and his family moved here in 1971, and he attended Garrett Park Elementary School and Woodward High School. He played on the famous Garrett Park Eagles baseball team, the Montgomery County soccer teams, and Woodward High School football team. A resident of Germantown, he was in the appliance repair business.

Erik will be remembered for his kindness to others and his bright blue eyes. He is survived by mom Ann, father Christopher, sister Ingrid of Seattle, Washington, and brother Peter of Houston, Texas. A memorial service was held on December 20 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; he is buried there in a family plot.

Ann Gordon

We’re Green Again!

Our green banner this month and next month is courtesy of “Garrett Park West”—our own Paul and Storry Norman, Alan and Cilla Murray, and Chip Fitzpatrick. Thanks one and all, and we’re glad that our news can travel to the far reaches of the continent. We will be green for all this printing year, thanks to generosity of our readers. However, if anyone would like to start the ball rolling for the 2005/2006 printing year, feel free to just send in a check for \$25 (the minimum donation required) or \$37 (the actual printing cost), payable to the Citizens Association, to Mary Moyer, Box 98, Garrett Park, or put it in my front porch mail box. Thanks in advance.

Mary Moyer

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Found on Clermont Avenue on the night of the luminaria/carol sing, a nice plaid neck scarf. If it's yours, call Mary Moyer, 301-933-5764.
- ♪ At Strathmore Hall: Rya Wall Hangings and Pottery until January 31, and "Are You My Valentine," a Strathmore Artist Members exhibit, from February 2 until February 28. These two exhibits are in the Invitational Gallery. In the Gudelsky Music Suite, selections from the Baltimore Museum of Art entitled "The Art of Music" will continue until February 26, 2005.
- ♪ Chris Moyer received his associate's degree from Montgomery College in December and has been accepted at the University of Maryland, College Park, to finish up his college career. He is still not sure what he wants to study or what his career plans will be, but does know that he will not be able to shovel snow here in town (if we ever have any) since he will be living in an apartment in College Park.
- ♪ You can drop off HAZMAT materials at the Shady Grove Transfer Station on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 5, on Saturdays from 8:30 to 5, and Sundays from 9 to 5. Enter at the 355 (Rockville Pike) entrance.
- ♪ If you haven't already done so, stop and see the panel of mayoral bricks in front of the Post Office. With much help from passersby, Butch Frost was on his knees last week laying the bricks, contributed by Lizzie Glidden-Boyle. We thank both Lizzie and Butch. Think what fun it will be when the entire project is finished in the spring.
- ♪ Our condolences to Bob Luke on the death of his mother, Sally Emmick Luke, on December 28, 2004. She was an educator with MCPS and lived in Silver Spring. She is survived by Bob and his two siblings, as well as six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.
- ♪ Our condolences also to Gerry Tritschler on the death of his father, James Tritschler, on December 28 in Columbus, Ohio. He had been an attorney. Besides Gerry and his two sisters, he is survived by eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
- ♪ Has it been the spring-like weather that has our residents out and about enough to have accidents? On the mending list is Kitty Barclay and her knee, Marian Green and her ankle, Barbara Rodes and her arm, and Marge Gott and her chin. Get well quickly, ladies.
- ♪ An organizational meeting for a nonfiction book club will take place on Wednesday, February 16, at 8 pm in the Town Hall. This group will be sponsored by the Women's Club. A quarterly schedule with a year-long focus is one possible format for this group. Anyone interested should attend the first meeting. Come with ideas for books. For further information, call Marian Green.
- ♪ A group of needlepointers (notice that's needle, not finger) and some novices willing to learn will be meeting in January to start work on cushions for the window seats in the Post Office. They can use even more help. If you are interested, call Nancy Schwartz.
- ♪ Former resident Paul Gootenberg, wife Laura Sainz, and son Danyal happily announce the birth of Lea Amalya on November 22 in Brooklyn, New York. Grandma Florence Gootenberg of Clermont Avenue is overjoyed with the new addition.
- ♪ Tickets are now on sale for performances at the new Music Center at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5100 for more information.



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Letter from the Mayor

It is probably the fates, but the warm weather we have been having recently is leading me to believe that my anti-snow amulet is working. In response to a question, I said that I was wearing it to save the town money on snow removal. To which Karen Anderson said, "Spoken like a true mayor!" We are starting to look at the 2006 budget. The Council will hold a budget workshop at the Town Hall starting at 8:30 in the morning on Saturday, February 5. While money is still a bit tight, we have had some good news about receiving more than anticipated in revenues for the town.

Town government is the closest level of government for all of us and has an effect on our lives every day. The town's staff, which answers all our calls and provides many little amenities for us, is one of the major items of the town budget. The upkeep on the town's equipment is another. One item of equipment that would be very cost efficient to get in the coming year is a tractor, which would make it possible for the maintenance staff to work much more effectively in clearing the streets, improving parking facilities, planting trees, removing debris, and caring for the town's grounds, among other activities. Several years ago the town took over the care for the Park and Planning tennis courts, and in addition, the town has two other parks. Waste removal is another large

item in the budget. Our streets and sewers take quite lot of care and will need more funds to care for them in the near future. This is the reason that we are working to develop a committee to study the needs of our infrastructure and how to create a long-term plan for their upkeep. We have two volunteers for this committee and are looking for others.

On February 3, I will go to Annapolis for the Maryland Mayors Conference. We will be meeting with the county's state delegation. Early in the fall I was appointed to the Maryland Municipal League's legislative committee to represent small towns. I have been to Annapolis several times lately and will be spending a lot of days at the Maryland Legislature during this session. In my last letter to the *Bugle* I mentioned some of the major items that we will be working for, which include seeking better communications for emergency response units, allowing municipalities to negotiate for lower electricity rates for all households in the municipality, and restoring some of the municipal funds that the Governor has withheld the last two years. The next three months will be quite interesting.

One of the nice things about being mayor is that I get to learn so many new things. Retirement certainly hasn't been boring.

Carolyn Shawaker




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